

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN LEE OBSERVED NATIONAL HIV TESTING DAY 2021



Contact:

Tammy Soliz, Public Information Officer
lee-pio@flhealth.gov
239-308-5196

Fort Myers, Fla. — National HIV Testing Day is observed each year on June 27 to encourage people to be aware of their HIV status. This year's theme, **"My Test, My Way,"** highlights that there are many options available when it comes to HIV testing. The Florida Department of Health works with community partners throughout the state to help provide all Floridians access to the right tools for learning their HIV status and staying healthy.

In 2019, 4,584 people were diagnosed with HIV in Florida. At the end of that year, 116,689 Floridians were confirmed to be living with HIV. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that this [accounts for only 86.5% of all people with HIV in Florida](#), meaning that there are many Floridians who have yet to be diagnosed. Earlier diagnosis of HIV leads to more successful treatment, so getting tested and learning your HIV status is crucial to your health.

People can reduce their risk for HIV by using appropriate prevention strategies, such as using condoms, getting tested regularly and taking pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP). Contact a health care provider to find out if PrEP is recommended for you. People living with HIV who take antiretroviral medication as prescribed and achieve an undetectable viral load cannot transmit HIV to their sexual partners.

In observance of National HIV Testing Day, the Regional HIV Team, in collaboration with community partners AIDS Healthcare Foundation, McGregor Clinic, and Independent Medical Group participated in the mobile pantry hosted by Community Cooperative at North Fort Myers High School on June 23.

Protect yourself. Get tested. Know your status. Learn what is next.

We have the power to both prevent and treat HIV. For more information, call 1-239-461-6100 or 1-800-FLA-AIDS or visit the [FDOH Lee HIV/AIDS website](#) or www.KnowYourHIVStatus.com.

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About the Florida Department of Health

The Florida Department of Health, nationally accredited by the [Public Health Accreditation Board](#), works to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.

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